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by the benign mission on which they have been often charged to the afflicted. But we are most of all interested in the editor's own contributions to the work. Mr. Flagg has by no means won the consideration which he merits as an author. We have not an essay-writer in the country who excels him, hardly any who equal him in the delineation of nature, — rural, floral, animated, — or of the sentiments akin to and nourished by the love of nature. His style is equally simple and pure; he is original without striving to appear so; he sees objects for himself, and through the medium supplied by his own tastes, habitudes, and culture; and he writes like a man with whom composition is heart-work no less than pen-work. At a time when literature was sought not for its stimulating, but for its nutritive qualities, such writings as his would have been choicely prized; and we cannot but think that even now there is a smaller and better public, that would only need to know him in order to appreciate him as we do.

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33. — *Solomon's Song: Translated and Explained, in Three Parts.* I. *The Manuduction.* II. *The Version.* III. *The Supplement.* By LEONARD WITHINGTON, Senior Pastor of the First Church in Newbury, Mass. Boston: J. E. Tilton & Co. 1861. 12mo. pp. 329.

SOME writers of genius and ability are limited by the subjects they treat, and their success is contingent on the felicity with which a subject is chosen by them or for them; while with others it makes no manner of difference what they profess to be writing about, the nominal theme of discourse or song being merely a thread around which whatever the mind holds in solution will promptly crystallize. Of this last class of writers we find a well-known type in Berkeley, whose essay "Concerning the Virtues of Tar Water" discusses not a few of the profoundest problems of spiritual philosophy, and rises to sublime heights of airy speculation. To take a more recent instance, who cares what title is prefixed to one of De Quincey's papers? The veriest trifle, equally with the gravest topics, starts in him the steady, limpid flow of learning, wit, and wisdom. We will not liken Dr. Withington either to Berkeley or to De Quincey, though we have named them simply because we were often reminded of both while turning over the leaves of the book we are now noticing. We feel no peculiar interest in Solomon's Song; we do not agree with Dr. Withington as to its sacred character; and we can account for its being found in the Jewish canon without ascribing to its author the Divine inspiration whose working

we rejoice to recognize in Moses and the Prophets. But while this book has made no impression on our anterior belief, we hold it none the less worthy to be read and studied. The special arguments for the author's view of Canticles occupy but a brief space; they are clearly defined and succinctly stated; and they do ample justice to their side of the questions under dispute. But it is in the collateral and subsidiary matter brought together from Oriental, sacred, classical, and modern literature, from philology and biblical criticism, and, above all, from the writer's own vast wealth of thought, sentiment, humor, observation, reflection, philosophy, devotion, that the surpassing charm of the book resides. It is the harvesting of a life-time's ripened fruits, — a work displaying masterly critical and exegetical scholarship, yet to which no mere scholar would have been adequate; manifesting a wonderfully wide range of general reading and literature, yet which the widest culture would not have enabled one to write; fraught with keen and subtile reasoning, yet entirely above the scope of ordinary logomachy. It needed the mellow old age of the earnest and loving Christian, the special experiences, too, of an honored and happy pastorate, to impart precisely the flavor that we detect in every section and paragraph of the volume. It is a book which constitutes a class by itself, and unless Dr. Withington adds another to it, it will remain alone of its class. But while no one else could have written it, he himself could not have written it ten years ago. There are many of its pages which could have come only from one who has reached those beautiful Sabbath years with which Providence sometimes rounds off the busy, toilsome life of an eminently good man, — years not of decline, but of culmination.

We received this work in sheets after all our previous notices were in type, and, though we have found time to read large portions of it, and to examine the whole, we have neither leisure nor room for the analysis of it which we else should gladly offer, and which we may find some future opportunity of presenting. But there is one suggestion which we would earnestly make to Dr. Withington, and especially to those friends of his who may prevail against the over-modest estimate which he has always placed upon his own writings. He has been an author for forty years or more. In that time he has published, in various departments of literature, theology, and practical religion many papers full of thoughts peculiarly his own, and many more in which he has made such use as no one else could of the materials which his varied and thorough scholarship has placed at his command. We remember, among his early publications, two volumes of Essays entitled "The Puritan," which contained some specimens of wonderfully vivid

characterization, and some pre-eminently touching and edifying presentations of religious truth. Since we read in one of those volumes "The Bird's-Nest in the Moon," at least thirty years ago, there has not been a day during which it has not recurred to our thoughts, and our whole life has been made happier, we trust better, by its lessons. We have been told that, for reasons applicable only to a small portion of these papers, the author suppressed what remained on sale of the edition many years ago, and that there is now hardly a copy to be found. Now what we suggest is, that Dr. Withington's friends insist, with a pertinacity which will not be refused, that he prepare for the press a volume of his miscellaneous writings. There is no man among us who could furnish a richer volume, and there are many of his papers which should not be suffered to pass out of knowledge.

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34. — *Preparatory Latin Prose-Book ; containing all the Latin Prose necessary for entering College. With References to Kühner's and Andrews and Stoddard's Latin Grammars, Notes, Critical and Explanatory, a Vocabulary, and a Geographical and Historical Index.* By. J. H. HANSON, A. M., Principal of the High School for Boys, Portland, Me. Boston : Crosby, Nichols, Lee, & Co. 1861. 12mo. pp. 762.

THERE is a slight mistake in the title of this book. The study of "all the Latin prose" required by the Faculty of any particular college is properly regarded as "necessary for entering" that college. Mr. Hanson has not conformed his book to the requirements of any one college ; but he gives what in his judgment is a sufficient amount and a judicious course of preparatory reading. The volume contains a series of short excerpts from Cicero, four Books of Cæsar's Commentaries, Sallust's Catiline, six of Cicero's Orations, and thirty-five of his Epistles, — a very admirable selection, but hardly equivalent to what is demanded of a candidate for admission to our best colleges. We like Mr. Hanson's Notes. They are sufficiently few in number, and yet numerous enough for the needs of a diligent student, and they are concise, well-worded, and always intelligible to a boy of ordinary capacity. In these notes the author omits no opportunity of elucidating the difference of signification between nearly synonymous words. Many annotations of this class are accredited to Döderlein. We thank Mr. Hanson especially for his services in this matter. The distinction in meaning between Latin words that will *bear* to be rendered by the same English word, if not recognized at an early stage of education, gets a subsequent